

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-04

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DRAFTED BY OES:HDBENGELSDORF:VM

APPROVED BY OES:HDBENGELSDORF

IO/SCT:LCAVANAUGH

ACDA:JPBORIGHT (SUBS.)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: TGEN, IAEA

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL IAEA
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND ONLY FOR NPT PARTIES

REF; VIENNA 3197

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AUSTRALIANS HAVE GIVEN DEPARTMENT NOTE
FAVORING A SPECIAL IAEA FUND FOR NPT PARTIES AND HAS
SOLICITED U.S. VIEWS ON THE SAME. WE DESIRE MISSION'S
COMMENTS SOONEST. END SUMMARY.

2. WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT IN ADDITION TO SOVIET
PROPOSAL AS REPORTED REFTEL AUSTRALIANS ALSO HAVE PROPOSED
TO US THE CONCEPT THAT A SPECIAL IAEA FUND FOR NPT PARTIES
BE ESTABLISHED. TEXT OF AUSTRALIAN NOTE FOLLOWS:

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3. BEGIN TEXT: THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOTED THAT

ON APRIL 7 THE GENEVA GROUP MEETING ON THE IAEA BUDGET REACHED A CONSENSUS TO RESIST INCREASES IN THE MINIMUM TARGET FOR THE IAEA VOLUNTARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND. THE FUND WITHOUT A DETAILED STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR AID IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD.

4. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED, HOWEVER, TO SEEK U.S. VIEWS ABOUT THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND FOR

NPT PARTIES ONLY (I.E., IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING IAEA VOLUNTARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND). ALTHOUGH NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN, THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES ARE ATTRACTED BY THE IDEA OF SUCH A FUND.

4. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN ASCERTAINING U.S. ATTITUDES TOWARDS:

(A) TO EARMARKING OF ALL OR PART OF THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE IAEA VOLUNTARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND FOR NPT PARTIES ONLY;

(B) AGREEMENT THAT BILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN NUCLEAR MATTERS (OTHER THAN ISOTOPES FOR MEDICAL OR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES) SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO NPT PARTIES ONLY. END TEXT.

NOTWITHSTANDING STEIN'S PRELIMINARY REACTION AS REPORTED REFTEL, WE SEE GRAVE POLITICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AS WELL AS POSSIBLE STATUTORY DIFFICULTIES WITH MOVING TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL FUND AS PROPOSED BY GOA OR SOVIETS. PROPOSAL BRINGS TO MIND THE DEBATE ON ARTICLE V OF THE NPT THAT OCCURRED WITHIN THE IAEA SEVERAL YEARS AGO. BASED ON THAT EXPERIENCE IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT MANY OF THE IAEA MEMBER STATES WOULD JUDGE THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL TO BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH ARTICLES III C AND IV C OF THE IAEA STATUTE. THEREFORE WE ARE INCLINED TO VIEW THE GOA PROPOSAL AS BASICALLY A NON-STARTER THAT COULD ONLY LEAD TO A COUNTERPRODUCTIVE DEBATE IN VIENNA. WHILE WE SENSE THAT MISSION MAY SHARE THIS JUDGMENT, WE WOULD WELCOME RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS ASAP BEFORE PROVIDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUR COMMENTS TO GOA. KISSINGER

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